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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/648,182	08/26/2003	Kabir Siddiqui	M61.12-0513	4417
7590	01/23/2004			EXAMINER
John Veldhuis-Kroeze Westman, Champlin & Kelly Suite 1600 900 Second Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55402-3319				HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	
			DATE MAILED: 01/23/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/648,182	SIDDQUI, KABIR
	Examiner Briggitte R. Hammond	Art Unit 2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4,6 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 5 and 8-14 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 - 1) Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Huang 6,394,852. Huang discloses in figures 3 and 4 an improved electrical connector, comprising:

a main connector housing (not numbered at "f" in fig 4); a stereo plug (at d) protruding from a front surface of the main connector housing; a first pair of electrical contact pins (at e) supported by the main connector housing on a first side of the stereo plug; and a second pair of electrical contact pins (e) supported by the main connector housing on a second side of the stereo plug opposite the first side of the stereo plug.

Regarding claim 2, Huang discloses an alignment feature ("f" in fig. 3) protruding from the front surface of the main connector housing.

Regarding claim 3, Huang discloses the alignment feature protrudes from the front surface of the main connector housing adjacent the stereo plug.

Regarding claim 4, Huang discloses the alignment feature further comprises an alignment key (not numbered, the spacing of the alignment features "f" in fig. 3 provide keying features) extending from the front surface in a direction away from the front surface which is substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis along which the stereo plug protrudes.

Regarding claim 6, Huang discloses the alignment key extending away from the stereo plug along a longitudinal direction of the front surface of the main connector housing (see attachment of fig. 3).

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Huang.

Regarding claim 7, Huang discloses the invention substantially as claimed in figures 3 and 4. Huang discloses a plurality of electrical contacts (poles, not numbered see col. 2, lines 1-5) spaced apart along the longitudinal axis of the stereo plug. Although apparently shown, Huang is silent regarding the insulators. However, figures 5-7 of Huang disclose that a plurality of electrical contacts 11-16 and insulators 18 spaced apart along the longitudinal axis of a stereo plug P, wherein each of the plurality of insulators electrically separating adjacent ones of the plurality of electrical contacts are well known features of a stereo plug. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the connector of figs. 3 and 4 of Huang by making the plug with a plurality of insulators spaced apart along the longitudinal axis the stereo plug, each of the plurality of insulators electrically separating adjacent ones of the plurality of electrical contacts to prevent flashover as taught by Huang in figures 5-7.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5 and 8-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: regarding claim 5, patentability resides, at least in part, in the alignment key being positioned between the stereo plug and one of the first and second pairs of electrical contacts, in combination with the other limitations of the base claim; regarding claim 8, patentability resides, at least in part, in the alignment key being formed integrally with one of the plurality of electrical insulators of the stereo plug, in combination with the other limitations of the base claim; regarding claim 9, patentability resides, at least in part, in the alignment key being formed integrally with one of the plurality of electrical contacts of the stereo plug, in combination with the other limitations of the base claim; and regarding claim 10, patentability resides, at least in part, in the plug having upper and lower pin housings with contacts on inner surfaces and the upper pin housing faces inner surfaces of the lower pin housing and the inner surface of the upper pin housing, in combination with the other limitations of the base claim.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is 703-305-0032 until January 28, 2004 and 571-272-2006 after January

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28, 2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and
Alternate Fridays from 7:30-5:00.

Brigitte Hammond

Brigitte R. Hammond

January 9, 2004